

Message Text

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TAGS: NATO, NPG, GE

SUBJECT:NATO AIR DEFENSE

REF: BONN 09057, DTG 261811Z MAY 77

1. IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL BRANDT'S REQUEST (REFTEL), WE
PROVIDE IN PARA 2, BELOW, TEXT OF A PAPER ON NATO AIR
DEFENSE OUTLINING CURRENT US THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT. WE
HOPE THAT THE PAPER WILL MAKE POSSIBLE A SUBSTANTIVE US-
FRG DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT AT THE TIME OF THE NPG
MEETING IN OTTAWA. PLEASE DELIVER TO GENERAL BRANDT AND
REPORT ANY REACTION.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

NATO AIR DEFENSE SCHEMATIC POINT PAPER

1. SECRETARY BROWN SUGGESTED TO MINISTER LEBER THAT THE US
AND FRG SHOULD START LOOKING TOGETHER AT LONGER RANGE

EUROPEAN AIR DEFENSE PROBLEMS. HE SAID WE NEED TO PLAN IN A CAREFUL WAY THE OVERLAP OF NEW AND EXISTING SYSTEMS, WHAT IS NEEDED, HOW WE WISH TO EQUIP OURSELVES, CO-PRODUCTION, ETC. HE SUGGESTED THAT STAFFS LOOK AT THIS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK THIS PROBLEM OUT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ALLIANCE PLAN IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE FRG, SACEUR AND OTHER NATIONS CONCERNED. WE ARE OF COURSE AWARE OF THE PARTICULAR GERMAN CONCERN OVER THE PHASING OUT OF NIKE HERCULES.

2. THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE AIR DEFENSE PICTURE APPEAR AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE ALLIANCE HAS OR IS CONSIDERING SEVERAL NEW AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS, MANY WELL-ADVANCED IN DEVELOPMENT, MANY SUBJECT TO COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, ALL OF WHICH PROMISE MUCH HIGHER EFFECTIVENESS THAN THE SYSTEMS THEY WILL REPLACE. THEY INCLUDE: AWACS, PATRIOT, ROLAND, GEPARD, IMPROVED HAWK, NEW INTERCEPTORS, INCLUDING THE F-15, F-16, AND GERMAN F-4FS.

B. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COUNTRY DECISIONS STILL PENDING:

-- BELGIAN HAWK. THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT BELGIUM WILL REVERSE ITS PREVIOUS DECISION.

-- MOST COUNTRIES HAVE NOT INDICATED HOW THEY PLAN TO REPLACE NIKE HERCULES.

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-- SOME COUNTRIES HAVE ADOPTED ROLAND (FRG, FRANCE, US, NORWAY), BUT SOME HAVE NOT (BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS).

C. THERE SHOULD BE A RAPID PACE OF DELIVERIES IN THE COMING YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES. THIS COULD LEAD TO SOME INTEGRATION AND MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS:

-- AWACS WILL HELP TO INTEGRATE AIR DEFENSE FORCES.

-- THERE COULD BE MANNING PROBLEMS.

-- WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER COUNTRIES WILL BUY SUFFICIENT MISSILES, EITHER SURFACE-TO-AIR, OR AIR-TO-AIR.

-- NEW TRAINING FACILITIES WILL BE NEEDED; THIS SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION.

D. THERE ARE SEVERAL PROMISING PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN

THE ALLIANCE WHICH COULD MAKE AIR DEFENSE AN EXEMPLARY PLANNING AREA:

-- THE MC IS TAKING A USEFUL INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD.

-- SACEUR WILL BE DOING SOME WORK ON AIR DEFENSE CONCEPTS, AT LEAST FOR SAMS.

-- CNAD HAS ESTABLISHED A PROJECT GROUP FOR REPLACEMENT OF NIKE, AND A STUDY GROUP FOR REPLACEMENT OF HAWK.

-- THE US HAS SUGGESTED THAT AIR DEFENSE BE MADE A KEY PRIORITY AREA FOR LONG-TERM PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING.

E. THE US IS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING AND TO MAKING A FULL CONTRIBUTION TO AIR DEFENSE.

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-- WE ALONG WITH SEVERAL OF OUR ALLIES HAVE DEPLOYED SUCH SYSTEMS AS IMPROVED HAWK AND REDEYE.

-- WE ARE BUYING AWACS, AND PATRIOT AND STINGER ARE WELL ADVANCED IN DEVELOPMENT.

-- WE HAVE LONG PUSHED FOR BETTER FIGHTERS, AS WELL AS FOR SHELTERS FOR AIRCRAFT.

F. THE ULTIMATE RESULT COULD BE A VERY CREDIBLE AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY, AT LEAST IN THE CENTER REGION:

-- A MULTIPLE ENGAGEMENT CAPABILITY OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ALTITUDES, BY PATRIOT.

-- THE BEST AIR-TO-AIR FIGHTERS NATO HAS EVER HAD (F-15, F-16).

-- A HORNET'S NEST AT LOW LEVEL FOR ANY ATTACKER.

-- THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE ASSETS WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED BY AWACS.

3. AS NEW SYSTEMS COME IN WE NEED TO PLAN FOR PHASE OUT OF THE OLDER ONES. THE US HAS BEEN CONSIDERING A WITHDRAWAL OF OUR NIKE HERCULES BATTERIES FROM EUROPE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT HAVE DEFERRED IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MEASURE IN DEFERENCE TO GERMAN VIEWS AND UNTIL OTHER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS WERE NEARER TO DEPLOYMENT.

-- WE THINK IT IS NO LONGER A VERY EFFECTIVE SYSTEM.

-- SECURITY FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TAKES MANPOWER WHICH THE ALLIANCE COULD BETTER USE ELSEWHERE, AND THE SITE SECURITY UPGRADE IS COSTING MONEY (\$70 MILLION) THAT COULD CERTAINLY BE SPENT BETTER ON CONVENTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.

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-- SACEUR'S STUDY SHOWS THAT NUCLEAR COVERAGE COULD BE MAINTAINED WITH MANY FEWER NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SITES.

4. WE ARE SENSITIVE TO FRG CONCERNS IN THIS MATTER:

-- WE REALIZE THAT WITHDRAWAL OF NIKE HERCULES COULD HAVE MAJOR POLITICAL AND ARMS CONTROL IMPLICATIONS.

-- WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE GAPS IN AIR DEFENSE COVERAGE.

-- WE ARE SENSITIVE TO MBFR CONSIDERATIONS.

5. NONETHELESS, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF PHASING OUT NIKE HERCULES, EVEN BEFORE PATRIOT DEPLOYMENT.

-- THERE ARE POSSIBLE GAP-FILLERS. F-15 HAS AN EXCELLENT HIGH ALTITUDE CAPABILITY, IMPROVED HAWK COVERS A LARGE PART OF THE NIKE ALTITUDE REGIME, ESPECIALLY THOSE ALTITUDES FROM WHICH BOMBING COULD BE EFFECTIVE.

-- WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TURN OVER SOME OR ALL OF OUR NIKE HERCULES BATTERIES TO THE FRG SHOULD THE FRG DESIRE TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THEM.

-- WE INTEND TO KEEP IN EUROPE ANY MANPOWER RELEASED FROM US BATTERIES AND FROM NUCLEAR CUSTODIAL DUTIES. WE ARE PRESENTLY STUDYING HOW WE MIGHT BEST EMPLOY THE MANPOWER WHICH WOULD BE FREED, TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST IMPROVEMENT IN OUR CONVENTIONAL COMBAT CAPABILITIES.

-- WE WOULD PREFER TO ACCOMPLISH A PHASE-OUT OF US NIKE HERCULES BATTERIES, OR TURN THEM OVER TO THE FRG IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. A POSSIBLE INTERIM STEP MIGHT BE TO REDUCE US NIKE HERCULES BATTERIES TO THE POINT WHERE

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MINIMUM CONTIGUOUS NUCLEAR COVERAGE IS MAINTAINED IN THE

US ZONE.

6. FINALLY WE ARE DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING
THE NATO THEATER DETERRENT WITHIN THE SPECTRUM OF
CAPABILITEIS.

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